I-80 HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE LANE UPDATE • OCTOBER 1993

Expanded Park and Ride Lots Support the I-80 Diamond Express Lanes

A major expansion of Park and Ride lots in the I-80 corridor will make it easier for commuters to carpool, vanpool or use public transit on the new I-80 Diamond Express Lanes.

Opening in April 1994, the 10-mile high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes will extend from Route 15 in Rockaway through the I-287 interchange in Parsippany-Troy Hills. The lanes will operate weekdays on the far left inside lane eastbound from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and on the far left inside lane westbound from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. During those hours, use of the Diamond Express Lanes will be reserved for vehicles with two or more people, including buses.

Construction of three new Park and Rides and expansion of five existing lots will add nearly 800 new parking spaces for commuters planning to share rides on the Diamond Express Lanes, according to the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT).

Save Time and Money

A survey of existing lots by NJDOT has additionally identified 544 available spaces which are currently not being used at Park and Rides in Sparta, Netcong, Rockaway Borough and Township, Washington Township, Denville, Byram, and Hope.

Park and Ride lots allow commuters to drive to a convenient pick-up point to meet a carpool, vanpool or transit bus. Ridesharing commuters using I-80 will have the added advantage of saving about 10 minutes each way on the less congested Diamond Express Lanes.

The expanded lot capacity in the I-80 corridor is part of NJDOT's $9 million statewide Park and Ride budget for fiscal year 1994. Construction for both the expanded and new lots is scheduled for May through August 1994.

For regional employers of 100 or more employees, the combination of more Park and Ride lots and the I-80 HOV Lanes will help make ridesharing a more convenient strategy for helping achieve the Employer Trip Reduction mandate of the federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

HOV lanes, the park and ride expansion, and new state tax incentives for employers and employees using rideshare options are among the state's investments to help employers and commuters meet the federal Clean Air mandates.

New Park and Ride Capacity

Available Spaces: Morris County

93	Denville, Savage Rd.
112	Netcong, Route 46 & Main St.
134	Rockaway Township, Rockaway Townsquare Mall
68	Washington Township, Route 46 Median
47	Rockaway Borough, CR 513 (Main St.)

Available Spaces: Sussex County

4	Byram, Route 206 & Tamarack Rd.
26	Sparta, Route 15 & Blue Heron Rd.
48	Sparta, Route 517, Sparta Municipal Bldg.

Available Spaces: Warren County

12	Hope, I-80 & CR 521
544	Total Available Spaces

New Spaces: Planned Expansion

200	Parsippany-Troy Hills, Route 46 & Beverwyck Rd. (Morris)
40	Byram, Route 206 & Tamarack Rd. (Sussex)
40	Hope, I-80 & CR 521 (Warren)

New Spaces: New Construction

200	Newton, Rt. 206 & S. Park Ave. (Sussex)
100	Allamuchy, I-80 & CR 517 (Warren)
100	Columbia, I-80 & Rt. 94 (Warren)

New Spaces: Lease Expansion

50	Roxbury/Mt. Arlington, CR 615 (Morris)
50	Panther Valley, I-80 & CR 517 (Warren)
780	Total New Spaces

COMING HOV IN 1994

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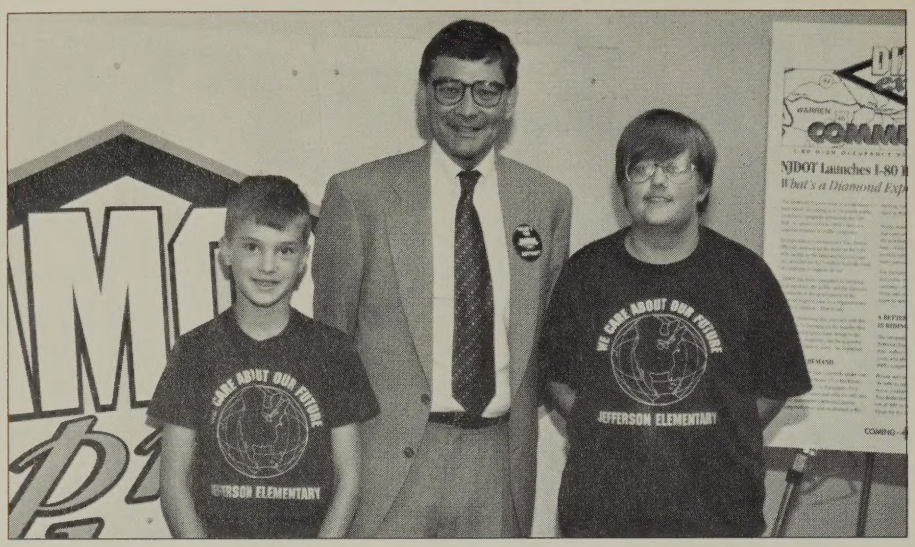

NJDOT Commissioner Tom Downs (center) greets Philip Lord (left) and Richard Hack (right) at the press conference announcing the I-80 HOV lane public awareness campaign.

Future Commuters Favor HOV Lanes

Two fifth grade students wrote a letter to the Roxbury Register in favor of the Diamond Express Lanes as a good way to reduce air pollution.

To The Editor:
We are fifth graders at Jefferson School and we believe the new high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane coming in 1994 is a very good idea. It is excellent to carpool, so less carbon monoxide is sent into the air. This will encourage people to carpool. But some people may just go into that lane because there is no traffic there, so a police officer should be posted every 30 or so miles.

PHILIP LORD
RICHARD HACK
Roxbury Township

Get Together To Get To Work on I-80

Form carpools and vanpools. For free assistance, call: 1-800-245-POOL

Somerset County destinations: **call RideWise of Raritan Valley, 908-704-1011.**
Morris County destinations and information on the I-80 Vanpool Subsidy Program:
call MC RIDES, 201-267-7600.
Essex and Union Counties destinations: **call Transit Plus, 201-491-PLUS.**

Speaking of the Diamond Express Lane

NJDOT Speakers Bureau available to local groups and businesses

Find out how "diamonds" can be a commuter's best friend when the new High Occupancy Vehicle express lanes open next April on I-80 from Route 15 through the I-287 interchange.

The opening of the I-80 Diamond Express Lanes is an important and timely topic that civic and professional organizations can learn about in full detail from a knowledgeable speaker available through NJDOT.

Get the inside track on the new lanes through an informative 20-minute speech, highlighted by visual aids and delivered by an NJDOT staff member. The presentation explains the benefits and operation of this new direction in transportation nationwide.

HOV lanes have been a proven success from Boston to San Diego, saving commuters t[illegible] and money while reducing traffic congestion and improving air quality. According to the US Department of Transportation, total HOV lane mileage nationwide is projected to increase 150 percent by the end of the decade.

Call 609-530-3026 or 609-530-6148 for a thought-provoking speaker who will spark discussion and bring your organization up to speed on the I-80 Diamond Express Lanes.

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Please call or write with suggestions, or tell us if you want to be added to our mailing list.